brought in. There were, of course, Mongol garrisons. We hear also of a contingent of Alans, Christians from the Caucasus, in Cambaluc.

Mongol rule made for a certain degree of security for travel in a vast area which had never before been brought together under one sway. China's foreign commerce flourished accordingly, possibly reaching dimensions never previously attained. Merchants from many countries frequented the chief marts. Arabs, Persians, and representatives of races of Central Asia entered in fairly large numbers. Ibn Batuta, from North Africa, left behind him a record of a visit to China in the latter part of the dynasty which gives a vivid picture of the extensive colonies of foreign merchants in the leading commercial centers. He describes the Arab groups as each being organized under a judge and a Sheikh-ul-Islam. Chinese merchants ventured abroad, and Chinese junks made their way to Java, India, and Ceylon. Chinese engineers were utilized on the irrigation of the Tigris-Euphrates Valley. There were Chinese colonies in Moscow, Novgorod, and Tabriz. The Yuan Emperors had commercial agreements with the princes of at least two of the states of South India.

Foreign trade was carried on both by sea and by the ancient overland tracks across the present New Dominion. Many of the cities of China, both on the coast and on the internal trade routes, shared in the prosperity which it brought, but the chief emporium was the present Ch'uanchow (known to European medieval travellers as Zaitun) not far from Amoy, in Fukien.

Commerce was not without its problems. The drain of copper coinage embarrassed the Mongol rulers as it had the Sung. Silver flowed out of the realm. The Mongols, too, found it difficult to

maintain a state monopoly over foreign trade or to enforce the regulations which they desired.

As heretofore, commerce was chiefly in those commodities which combined small bulk and weight with large value. The leading export appears still to have been silk in various forms—several varieties of silken fabrics being mentioned in the lists of merchandise—but porcelains and other wares helped to swell the total. Imports included, among other items, spices, pearls, precious stones, and fine cloths.

From the standpoint of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries,